

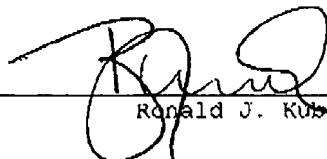
**PATENT
NON-FINAL**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/879,966 Confirmation No. 4190
Applicant : Yoshihiko SANO
Filed : June 14, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1744
Examiner : Elizabeth L. McKane
Dkt. No. : NPR-074
Cust. No. : 20374

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I hereby certify that this paper is being
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Ronald J. Kubovcik

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 2004**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 22, 2004

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated
September 23, 2004.

Please amend the application as directed below and consider
the remarks that follow.

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